

Applicant: Wilhelmsen et al.
Application No.: 10/800,562

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are currently pending in this application. The foregoing amendment amended claim 1 and added new claim 11.

No new matter is added to the application by this amendment.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1, 2, and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,332,597 ("the '597 patent"). Claims 6-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the '597 patent. Claims 3 and 5 are unpatentable over the '597 patent in view of U.S. Patent 4,050,603. Applicants hereby traverse these rejections as applied to the amended claims.

The universal bracket can be used to secure an object, typically a kitchen cabinet, to a plasterboard wall, or similar surface. Self-tapping screws or the like can be used to fasten the cabinet through the plasterboard any place along the plasterboard that has universal bracket parts 3 or 4 behind the plasterboard.

The two different universal bracket parts 3 and 4 are preferably fastened to a frame over which the plasterboard is positioned. The universal bracket parts 3,4 are attached to facing sides of a frame (or vertical studs) by securing end pieces 5 to the frame surfaces.

Part 4 is first fixed with a fastener. Part 3 has a hole, 8, which is big enough to cover the head of fastener. Because of this, the left side of part 3 can afterwards

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be screwed on top of the right side of part 4 with screws 10 without interference with screw 11 as shown in Fig. 6. In this manner it is possible to cover the wall horizontally continuously with this kind of brackets.

In this way objects like kitchen cabinets can be fastened with self-tapping screws anywhere on this wall in the band covered by universal bracket. The above is the primary use of the universal bracket. In addition some variants are designed that have precut holes for special use for electrical and bathroom fittings. These holes are prepared for standard fittings and do not require self-tapping screws.

In contrast, the '597 patent bracket covers a bracket with prepared holes/threads and the '597 patent bracket is not suitable for supporting structures like kitchen cabinets. The heights of the support points are normally given, but the horizontal position is depending on variations in cabinets and is not necessarily known when the plasterboards are mounted. In any case, if is used for supporting such cabinets, all horizontal points on the wall will not be covered and will therefore not be a practical solution. The '597 patent bracket is neither intended nor practical to solve the support tasks for which the universal bracket of the present invention was designed.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections.

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INVITATION


If the Examiner believes that any additional matters need to be addressed to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned, by telephone, at the Examiner's convenience.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing Amendment and Remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1-11, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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